

Heights during the Spanish-American War.

DATES: Comments must reach the Center of Military History no later than May 31, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Persons interested in providing their written comments may submit them to: Roosevelt MOH Panel, U.S. Army Center of Military History, 103 Third Avenue, Building 35, Fort Lesley J. McNair, DC 20319-5058. Public submissions received after May 31, 1999 will not be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Graham A. Cosmas, (202) 685-2065, or e-mail to cosmaga@hqda.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This announces the invitation of public submissions of information about Theodore Roosevelt's battlefield courage in the attack on San Juan Heights during the Spanish-American War. Public comment will be accepted by the U.S. Army Center of Military History beginning on April 1, 1999 and ending on May 31, 1999.

The U.S. Army is reviewing then-Colonel Roosevelt's record of valor in the Spanish-American War at the request of Congress. The 60-day public comment period is part of the Army's effort to comply with congressional intent with regard to Pub. L. 105-371, which is a bill authorizing and requesting the President to award the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously to Theodore Roosevelt.

An independent panel of historians will review the public submissions and then provide a formal report of Roosevelt's valor. Following the review process, the Army will advise the President on whether Roosevelt should be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Corps of Engineers; Scoping Meetings for Nationwide Permit Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Intent and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Corps is initiating a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the entire Nationwide Permit Program (NWP) to be completed by December 2000. The overall purpose of the PEIS is to review

and evaluate the NWP program as a whole, to ensure that the NWP program authorizes only those activities with minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects on the aquatic environment. This notice is intended to provide other Federal agencies, States, Tribes and the public the opportunity to participate in the scoping of the PEIS. The Corps will hold three meetings to solicit comments on the scope of the PEIS. Comments may be submitted in person at the meeting or in writing to the address given below.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before June 4, 1999.

The meeting dates are:

1. May 4, 1999, at 1:00-5:00 p.m. and 7:00-10:00 p.m., Sacramento, CA.
2. May 6, 1999, at 1:00-5:00 p.m. and 7:00-10:00 p.m., Fort Worth, TX.
3. May 24, 1999, at 1:00-5:00 p.m., Washington, D.C.

ADDRESSES:

The meeting locations are:

1. Sacramento—Clarion Hotel, 700 Sixteenth Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814
2. Fort Worth (downtown)—Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building (Taylor Street Entrance, 1st floor), 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102
3. Washington, DC—National Guard Association Building, One Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

Send written comments to Mr. Robert Brumbaugh, CEWRC-IWR-P, Casey Building, 7701 Telegraph Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22315-3868.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Brumbaugh, CEWRC-IWR-P, at (703) 428-6370.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 1, 1998, the Corps published a Notice document (63 FR 36040, July 1, 1998) containing a proposal to issue 6 new NWPs and modify 6 existing NWPs to replace NWP 26. Further modifications were proposed on October 14, 1998 (63 FR 55095, October 14, 1998) which included withdrawing one of the proposed NWPs, the addition of restrictions on the use of certain NWPs, and extending the NWP process and the expiration of NWP 26 to September 15, 1999. On June 23, 1998, the Corps issued a Finding of No Significant Impact for the NWP program which states that the NWP program does not have significant effects on the quality of the human environment and therefore the preparation of an EIS is not required by NEPA.

Although the Corps determined that an EIS was not required by NEPA, it announced in the July 1, 1998 Notice document (63 FR 36040, July 1, 1998) that it would prepare a PEIS for the

entire NWP program. The overall purpose of the PEIS is to review and evaluate the NWP program as a whole, to ensure that the NWP program authorizes only those activities with minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment. The PEIS will provide a programmatic comprehensive and structured review of the effects of the NWP program on the environment. The intent of the PEIS is to evaluate the procedures and process associated with the NWP program and not to examine impacts associated with individual NWP authorizations.

Some of the issues to be addressed in the PEIS include the following: programmatic and procedural alternatives to be evaluated; procedures to evaluate and ensure minimal effects; procedures to ensure protection of endangered species and historic and cultural resources; and evaluation and analysis of costs to the regulated public (including administrative, opportunity and delay costs) and benefits to the public (including navigation, water quality, wetlands, and other public interest benefits).

The scoping meeting will focus on identifying programmatic and procedural alternatives (e.g., combination of Regional General Permits and NWPs), methods of collecting and analyzing NWP data, and other substantial environmental issues to be addressed in the PEIS.

The Corps expects to complete preparation of the Draft PEIS by August 2000. The Final PEIS will be completed by December 2000. Public meetings to present preliminary study findings are planned to be held prior to publication of the Draft PEIS.

Dated: March 17, 1999.

Charles M. Hess,

Chief, Operations Division, Directorate of Civil Works.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Coastal Engineering Research Board (CERB)

AGENCY: Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following committee meeting: